

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 4 and 5 are amended. Claims 9 and 10 are added. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

New claims 9 and 10 are supported by the specification in at least page 10, lines 4-13.

I. PENDING CLAIMS

The Office Action identifies claims 1-6 as pending in this application. However, in a Preliminary Amendment filed March 26, 2004, Applicants added claims 7 and 8. Therefore, claims 1-8 were pending at the time of the Office Action. The Examiner is respectfully requested to examine claims 7 and 8 in the next Office Action.

II. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 4-6 contain allowable subject matter, if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this Amendment, claims 4 and 5 are rewritten in independent form to overcome the objection stated in the Office Action.

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and rejects claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,178,115 to Daly. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended to address the §112 rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action asserts that Daly discloses a fuel supply system with a plurality of fuel injection members to which fuel is supplied by fuel supply passages provided in a holding-and-supplying unit. However, Daly actually appears to disclose a fuel rail assembly in which a plurality of fuel injectors are arranged in a tube in a linear arrangement, with the

fuel filling the tube and enveloping the fuel injectors (see, e.g., col. 2, lines 18-42, col. 5, lines 57-59 and Fig. 5).

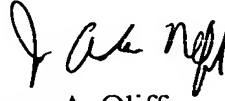
In contrast, claims 1 and 3 recite that "the fuel injection members comprise a first fuel injection member and an annular second fuel injection member surrounding the first fuel injection member." New claims 9 and 10 further recite an annular third fuel injector. Daly does not teach, disclose or suggest such an arrangement of fuel injectors and further does not suggest a fuel supply system appropriate to such an arrangement of fuel injectors.

For at least this reason, claims 1 and 3 are patentably distinct from the applied prior art. Further, the claims depending from claims 1 and 3 are also allowable for the reasons discussed, as well as additional features recited therein. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-10 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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